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The President's Daily Brief

21 July 1971

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 July 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A Chinese Communist editorial marking the 17th anniversary of the Geneva accords has praised the Vietnamese Communists' seven-point proposals. *(Page 1)*

"Big" Minh says there is a "90-percent chance" he will not run for the South Vietnamese presidency. *(Page 2)*

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

The new Sudanese junta is moving to consolidate its control. *(Page 5)*

Sabotage continues to cause major disruptions in East Pakistan's transportation network. *(Page 6)*

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COMMUNIST CHINA - VIETNAM

In an authoritative editorial yesterday commemorating the 17th anniversary of the Geneva accords, the Chinese praised the Vietnamese Communists' seven points as the "correct course" and criticized the US for making no positive response to the proposal. The editorial underlined Peking's long-held position that a settlement of the Indochina question must meet the desires of the Indochinese peoples. It claimed that the Geneva agreements were "a great achievement" for the Vietnamese, which was only later undermined by US actions.

The Chinese statement marks the first time Peking has commemorated the Geneva anniversary in several years and is its most complimentary public pronouncement on the agreements since the start of the Paris peace negotiations in 1968. Peking almost certainly intended that its statement would at least partially assuage Hanoi's concern over recent developments in Sino-US relations. It is not evident from the text of the editorial whether or not the unusual attention was designed as anything more than an affirmation of Peking's continuing support for Hanoi's approach to negotiations. It could, however, be related to recent suggestions that China is willing to participate in an international conference on Indochina.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

"Big" Minh has told US officials there is a "90-percent chance" he will not run for president because Thieu is rigging the election. Minh cited the seizure of opposition newspapers and charged that government agents have threatened both his and Vice President Ky's campaign workers. Asserting that a "hands-off" policy will not be sufficient, Minh asked that the US prevent provincial and district officials from giving Thieu any unfair advantage.

Minh said he doubted whether Ky will be able to obtain the necessary endorsements in the face of government pressure on provincial councilors, and for the first time stated that if he does not run himself, he is thinking of throwing his support to Ky.

> *Such a move before the 4 August filing deadline would likely enable Ky to qualify and thus alleviate some of the criticism of Thieu that a Minh withdrawal would touch off. Minh is still keeping his options open, however; he is continuing to prepare for the campaign, and only last week he sounded out a respected Catholic opposition deputy on becoming his running mate.*

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USSR-ROMANIA

[redacted] 50X1

top Soviet leaders criticized Ceausescu for the "anti-Soviet" tone of his Peking visit when the Romanian leader stopped over in Moscow on 24 June [redacted] 50X1 The Soviets feel that the Chinese-Romanian final communiqué accepted the Chinese thesis that the socialist bloc is divided into large and small states with conflicting interests. That communiqué was also a major matter of controversy during Ceausescu's later stop in Mongolia. 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Ceausescu, while in Mongolia, questioned the rationale for participation in the Warsaw Pact because "there is no threat from imperialism."

Ceausescu's remark reflects both his general disapproval of all military blocs and Romanian reluctance to join Pact exercises. Other reports confirm that Ceausescu's visit to Mongolia, which always echoes Moscow, was marked by ideological disputes that prevented agreement on more than an innocuous communiqué and bland speeches.

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SUDAN

Large and occasionally disorderly street demonstrations occurred both for and against the new regime yesterday in Khartoum and other cities. [redacted] 5,000 supporters of deposed president Numayri demonstrated southeast of the capital in Wad Medani. There are, however, no indications of widespread organized resistance to the coup. 50X1

The new seven-man Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), installed yesterday as Sudan's new government, includes four men who have been affiliated with the Communist Party in the past. Unconfirmed reports reaching the US Interests Section in Khartoum characterize them as members of the party's doctrinaire wing. Three RCC members, including its chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Babakr al-Nur Uthman, and his deputy, Major Hashim al-Atta--the regime's main spokesman to date--had been dismissed from the previous government last November for leaking secrets to the Communists.

In moves designed to consolidate its position, early yesterday the RCC dissolved a number of organizations that had supported Numayri, rescinded the previous government's ban on four organizations that had formed the power base of the Communist Party, announced the release of approximately 47 jailed Communist Party members, and suspended all newspapers and magazines except for the army's journal.

[redacted] the coup's participants had been plotting against Numayri for a number of months. [redacted] although all the new rulers opposed Numayri's policies, they are not necessarily agreed upon what course of action they should follow and may soon fall to arguing among themselves. 50X1 50X1

The Communist Party in the Sudan has been largely oriented toward local nationalism. Therefore the characterization of Sudan's new military leaders as either Communists or sympathizers should not be interpreted as meaning that the Sudan will now become a puppet of Moscow.

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NOTE

East Pakistan: The transportation system is more disorganized now than at any time since April, according to the top civilian official in Dacca. Sabotage operations by Bengali guerrillas, some probably acting under Indian sponsorship, apparently have produced major dislocations. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] the guerrillas will continue to attack the transport and communications network despite the adverse impact on the food crisis facing the Bengali population. Islamabad's military overseers in the East, who do not seem to have grasped the seriousness of the situation, have done little to correct it. The army is still using for its own purposes some of the boats provided by the US for cyclone relief in late 1970. 50X1

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